

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. T-907

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Ferry Ticket Offices

## 2. Location

street & number

☐ not for publication

city, town Claiborne

☐ vicinity of

congressional district 5

state Maryland

county

Talbot

## 3. Classification

### Category

☐ district

☒ building(s)

☐ structure

☐ site

☐ object

### Ownership

☐ public

☒ private

☐ both

### Public Acquisition

☐ in process

☐ being considered

☒ not applicable

### Status

☒ occupied

☐ unoccupied

☐ work in progress

### Accessible

☒ yes: restricted

☐ yes: unrestricted

☐ no

### Present Use

☐ agriculture

☐ commercial

☐ educational

☐ entertainment

☐ government

☐ industrial

☐ military

☐ museum

☐ park

☒ private residence

☐ religious

☐ scientific

☐ transportation

☐ other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number

telephone no.:

city, town

state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse

liber

street & number

folio

city, town Easton

state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-907

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Three buildings stand in the village of Claiborne which were once in use as part of the ferry transportation system and are now in use as residences. Two ferry ticket office buildings were moved from their original sites and enlarged in order to serve as dwellings. Although local residents know these buildings by the public role they once served in the community, it is impossible for outsiders to identify them as having been anything but residences.

One of the ferry ticket offices is owned by Hugh D. and Nancy H. Clark of Claiborne, MD (Recorded in T.C. Land Records 674/206). This ticket office was in use as late as 1952 when the Claiborne-Romance ferry ceased operations. Hugh Clark's father purchased the building in 1953 and moved it to its current site at the edge of the village wharf parking lot. Originally, this one-and-a-half story, gable roof structure was located at the edge of the ferry pier and housed offices, a waiting room, and restrooms. This building is still covered in wide weatherboard siding, but the wood shingle roof has been replaced by asphalt shingles. The Clarks added dormer windows and a one-story addition to enlarge the structure which they use as a full-time residence.

The second ferry ticket office is owned by Edward H. Harrison, et al, of Jarrettsville, Maryland (Recorded in T.C. Land Records in 561/774). This building was used by the Claiborne-Annapolis Ferry Company until the early 1930s when the small, gable-roof structure was moved from its original site by the ferry wharf to this lot on Talbot Street. One of the first owners of this building was a jeweler who added a one-story addition which contained a built-in safe. Edward Harrison's father, the subsequent owner, added a screened porch and a second addition on the rear of the building. Today the building is sheathed in aluminum siding, roofed with asphalt shingles, and used as a summer cottage.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. T-907

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Although these structures do not have a particular architectural significance in the community, they both reflect the innovative and thrifty nature of the Eastern Shore's rural villages and evoke memories of a time when Claiborne was a busy transportation hub. Repeatedly, this sort of adaptive reuse of vacant, inactive structures occurred in Claiborne. The James Gray post office was added to the Methodist Church, the Florence Davis post office was turned into a dwelling, these ferry ticket offices were transformed into residences, a gutted Holy Innocents Chapel was used as a church hall and polling place, and a railroad waiting room/pavilion was absorbed into the heart of residence on Miracle House Road.

The former lives of these structures is known only to those who worked, worshipped, waited, or spent money in them when they were public places. Their blank facades hold special meaning for fewer and fewer residents as Claiborne natives leave or die or forget, and no special meaning for visitors. Those who do remember, however, are proud of the imaginative men and women who were able to transform them.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-907

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Architectural Historian

organization Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission date 12/31/91

street &amp; number telephone

city or town Easton state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
301-514-7600



COMPILED FROM 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES OF THE  
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1950 (TOPOGRAPHIC BASE)  
1977 (LIMITED REVISIONS:  
roads and boundaries)



T-907

FERRY TICKET OFFICE & WAITING ROOM  
(NOW THE CLARK HOUSE)

N: ELEVATION

CLAIRBORNE, MD

NANCY CLARK COLLECTION





T-907

FERRY TICKET OFFICE

SE ELEVATION



T- 907

FERRY TICKET OFFICE

NE ELEVATION